

ICLALIS 2018: Another Achievement for RULLS and PPIB

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DECEMBER -

In its first role as conference organizer, the Research Unit for Languages & Linguistics of Sabah (RULLS) successfully held the 2nd International Conference on Languages, Linguistics, and Society (ICLALIS 2018) with the Centre for

the Promotion of Knowledge and *Language* Learning (PPIB) Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) at the Promenade Hotel, Kota Kinabalu, recently.

The theme of the two days conference was “Languages, linguistics, and society in the era of disruptive technologies”.

Four keynote speakers together with 53 paper presenters from Malaysia, Switzerland, Nigeria, the Philippines and Indonesia joined the event. A pre-conference workshop conducted by keynote speaker Emeritus Prof. Dr. James T. Collins was also held on 7th November 2018 at PPIB.

The conference was officiated by Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Trade and Industry, Sabah, Datuk Seri Panglima Wilfred Madius Tangau, who was also a keynote speaker at the conference.

Other keynote speakers were Assistant Minister, Ministry of Education and Innovation, Sabah, Jenifer Lasimbang; Principal Research Fellow, Institute of Ethnic Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Emeritus Prof. Dr. James T. Collins; and Prof. Dr. Zuraidah Don, Advisor – Council of Language Deans, and Founding Chair – English Language Standards and Quality Council, Ministry of Education, Malaysia.

The opening ceremony was also attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Datuk Dr. D Kamarudin D Mudin; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni), Prof. Dr. Ismail Ali, and Dean of PPIB, Prof. Dr. Jualang Azlan Gansau.

In his keynote, Datuk Seri Panglima Wilfred Madius stated that as societies move forward and face a world with disruptive technologies, there is even more need to maintain and practice good values which amongst others are found in languages.

“Indigenous languages, for example, are rich with positive values which people must not lose sight of especially in the digital world,” he said.

In a first, ICLALIS 2018 was organized with collaborated effort by dedicated PPIB lecturers and language teachers from all three UMS campuses.

Another first was the introduction of five best paper presentation awards for the categories of indigenous language, Malaysian school teachers, Malaysian higher education, international presenter, and poster presentation.

Awards recipients received academic reference materials donated by generous sponsors. ICLALIS 2018 was helmed by the convener, Dr. Jeannet Stephen, and co-convener Natalie Ann Gregory.

Dr. Jeannet Stephen heads the Research Unit for Languages & Linguistics of Sabah (RULLS) since February 2018. ICLALIS 2018 is also a contribution by UMS in support of the United Nation's 2019 International Year of the Indigenous Languages and the event's information is listed on IYIL's website via this URL:

<https://en.iyil2019.org/events/2nd-international-conference-on-languages-linguistics-and-society/>.